

BRIG.-GEN. STEWART L. WOODFORD.

To the Editor of THE N. Y. Tribune.

SIR: Permit a Southern Loyalist, who has no political "ax to grind," but who simply desires to add his unbiased testimony, and state a few important facts relative to the civil and military career of the gifted and patriotic soldier whom your State proposes to honor and reward for his brilliant and heroic services in behalf of universal liberty and human progress—Gen. Stewart L. Woodford. Your motives prompt me to this undertaking: First, a strict sense of duty as a loyal citizen, rendering it incumbent on each individual at this truly critical juncture in political affairs not to leave undone or untold anything which can in the slightest manner aid the sacred cause of freedom or help checkmate the nefarious designs of the great arch traitor at Washington. Second, to render credit where great credit is due, and likewise to bring to the light, and open at this auspicious moment, a leaf or two of the military history of the modest subject of this sketch, the next Lieutenant-Governor of the glorious Empire State of the North. No feeble effort of mine can elevate the name of your able candidate in the opinion of the loyal men whose wisdom and patriotism have induced them to make so excellent a selection for their standard-bearer in the great conflict of ideas now being vigorously waged; but should this hasty written sketch tend to reflect the baser slanders of the Copper-John calumniators, and strengthen the faith of Unionists who intend to deposit their ballot for Gen. Woodford, in his stand integrity, wonderful administrative powers, undaunted determination and patriotism, keen sense of duty and justice, and sterling moral worth, then my sole aim will have been accomplished.

Gen. Stewart Lyndon Woodford was born in New-York City, September 3, 1833. Entering Columbia College at the early age of sixteen years, his remarkable proficiency as a scholar and unexceptionable moral deportment soon won the praise and admiration of his tutors and classmates, and in 1854, he graduated with distinguished honors. Entering the office of Messrs. Brown, Hall & Vandepool, he commenced the study of law, and was admitted to practice in 1857. At the bar, his signal ability soon placed him in the front rank of his profession, and he was recognized as one of the most promising members, while his popularity kept step with his success as a lawyer, and both must be attributed to his indomitable energy and industry, coupled with that natural grace and geniality of manner which wins friends and disarms enemies. Gen. Woodford's entrance into the political arena dates back only to the spirited and impetuous Presidential canvass of 1860, when he gave up a most lucrative and rapidly increasing practice to aid in the glorious cause, for the defense of which he has since risked his life. He was a member of the historic Convention that nominated Lincoln, and, during that memorable campaign, his talents and eloquence were constantly employed for the advancement of the cause of Republicanism; and, in recognition of his valuable services, he was unanimously elected Messenger of the Electoral College to convey its vote to Washington. In January, 1861, the Young Men's Republican Committee of New-York City honored him with the Chairmanship of that organization, and in the following April, on the urgent recommendation of the members of the State Electoral College, he was appointed Assistant United States District-Attorney for the Southern District of New-York, filling the important position to the acceptance of all parties. At the breaking out of the Rebellion, Gen. Woodford was assigned to the charge of that difficult bureau of the office which controlled the valuable assets made under the blockade act; and it was here amid the intricate and embarrassing entanglement of knotty points, that his superior and impartial judgment and legal acumen were displayed to great advantage: no case, however labyrinthine, appearing to perplex him in solving it rapidly. In this delicate and important position, he continued to render essential service to Government until the sad news came of the repulse of our army under McClellan at the Peninsulas in 1862; when, inspired with the ardor of patriotism, he at once resigned his lucrative position to assume the more arduous and pernicious duties of a soldier, believing that the hour had arrived when his country required every arm to be raised in its defense on the battlefield. Joining an infantry company as a private, he was soon promoted from an enlisted man to the rank of Captain, being unanimously elected to fill that position. The company was shortly after attached to the gallant 127th New-York Volunteers, commanded by Col. Garney; and here again the ability and universal popularity of the soldier caused him to receive the Majorship of his regiment, and prior to his departure for the seat of war, a officer was granted his worthy shoulders; and, thus honored, at the head of his command, he marched to battle, his first service being in the defense of Washington during the Winter of 1862 and 1863. From Washington, the regiment proceeded to Suffolk, Va., and was under the command of Col. Woodford during the memorable siege by the Rebel Gen. Longstreet. The brief space at my command forbids my attempting to do justice to all the military exploits of Gen. Woodford during the war, but I may briefly state that, in the Department of the South under the noble Gilmore, he achieved the most brilliant success. In the operations against Fort Wagner and Charleston, he commanded his regiment until ordered to take charge of all the land batteries, and was subsequently intrusted with the exchange of all prisoners in Charleston Harbor. To illustrate the character of the man, it is only necessary to state that upon learning of Gen. Foster's projected expedition in November, 1864, to sever the connection of the Savannah and Charleston Railroad, Col. Woodford immediately asked to be removed from post duty, and applied for permission to rejoin his regiment, which was to participate in the movements. At the battle of Honey Hill, Lieut.-Col. Woodford's gallantry challenged the admiration of all who witnessed that bloody struggle, while at the battle of Coosawhatchie, where the brave Gurney was wounded, the regiment was led through the conflict by Col. Woodford, and in the words of his commanding officers, "by his coolness and courage, he contributed largely to the success of the day." Again, at the battle of Tallifly Hill, Col. Sullivan, commanding the brigade, was quite severely wounded early in the fight, and the command devolved upon Col. W., whose conspicuous gallantry and skill won the admiration of the troops, and induced Gen. Foster to strongly recommend him for promotion to the full rank of Colonel.

Just before the cessation of hostilities, Col. Woodford was appointed Provost-Marshall-General of the Department of the South, which then embraced the States of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, and shortly after was assigned to the very important position of first Military Governor of Charleston. Few of your readers can form the slightest conception of the innumerable obstacles that embarrassed and beset the first military administrator of that hotbed of treason. To govern a half-starved, humiliated, and subtilized people, and exercise such a control over the troops and citizens as would protect the rights of both, was no ordinary task, to say nothing of the faculty and administrative capacity required to save the popular from utter famine and sore distress. Entering the war-torn city, with its smoldering ruins on every side attesting the fury of loyal ammunition, with no laws in existence to govern the people and punish criminals, Col. W. soon restored order out of chaos, set the wheels of system in running order, giving entire satisfaction to everybody, and inspiring the hearts of the most venomous Secessionists with a respect for the Government which had not such a magnanimous officer to rule over them.

I cannot dismiss this portion of my narrative without alluding briefly to the remarkable success that attended Col. W.'s Military Government at Charleston. The city was invested with Rebels despoiled, many of them deserters from Johnson's army, and the law-abiding citizens were constantly intimidated and annoyed by these ruffians, who resented at no crime, and sought the murder of offending colored people. Complaints were made, and without the roundabout, red-tape style of executing military matters, Col. W. took a straight course, punishing severely every convicted offender, White or Black, until lawlessness of every kind was completely suppressed within the limits of the city, giving peace and security to all who dwelt beneath the American flag. As an instance of his tenacity of purpose and determination to administer impartial justice to all, I remember, on one occasion, the colored people desired to celebrate the anniversary of President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. The programme of amusements included a monster procession in which upward of eight thousand colored people were to participate with banners and music. The Rebel citizens on learning this, were terribly alarmed, and, pale with fear and anxiety, counseled with their officers. The cautionary language they used was, "What will we do now? But one thing do we know, that many officers have above us much more worthy of this honor than we have."

On turning to the above, Capt. Kirk spoke substantially as follows:

THE SWORD OF CAPT. KIRK.

The sword which was presented to Gen. Corcoran of the Irish Legion, by the Common Council of the City of New-York, was on Monday night presented to Capt. James B. Kirk, as the most fitting representative of the Legion to retain its custody.

After listening to addresses from Gen. Palmer, Commissary General of the Army, and others, the regiments marched in a very eloquent manner. He stated that the regiment had lost a great many men during the war, having left New-York with over 1,600 men and returning with a skeleton regiment. He said Col. Woodford, the commanding general had paid his respects to the men that were well advanced in life, injuriously to such extent that death ensued in a short time. This was brought by the administration and judgment obtained against the defendants in May, 1865, for the sum of \$73,47. An action was brought by the wife of one of the defendants, a Mrs. M. C. Holman, for the recovery of her separate property, and they were lodged in jail. The case came up yesterday morning on a motion to set aside the execution, on the ground that the action upon which the wife was held was illegal, and an injunction issued, an action for personal injury to be held under the statute, and therefore the arrest of the defendant, under the statute, and the arrest of the wife.

The following is a list of the names of the officers in the different battles in which the Regiment participated: Harper's Ferry, South Mountain, Antietam, Gettysburg, The Wilderness, Spotsylvania, and Petersburg.

THE SWORD PRESENTATION TO THE NINTH REGIMENT, N. G. S. N.

On Monday evening, the 9th Regiment, N. G. S. N., were presented with a set of colors at the State Arsenal, on Seventh-ave. Shortly after 8 o'clock, the various companies left their armories in Twenty-sixth-st., and proceeded to the Arsenal.

The colors were presented by Col. Edward Gehard of Gov. Fenton's staff, who made a very neat and eloquent address, including to the various battles that the Regiment had participated in the war, and thanked them for their services in behalf of the country.

Gen. Palmer, commanding the brigade, responded in a very eloquent manner. He stated that the regiment had lost a great many men during the war, having left New-York with over 1,600 men and returning with a skeleton regiment. He said Col. Woodford, the commanding general had paid his respects to the men that were well advanced in life, injuriously to such extent that death ensued in a short time. This was brought by the administration and judgment obtained against the defendants in May, 1865, for the sum of \$73,47. An action was brought by the wife of one of the defendants, a Mrs. M. C. Holman, for the recovery of her separate property, and they were lodged in jail. The case came up yesterday morning on a motion to set aside the execution, on the ground that the action upon which the wife was held was illegal, and an injunction issued, an action for personal injury to be held under the statute, and therefore the arrest of the defendant, under the statute, and the arrest of the wife.

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THE BUSINESS IN THE COURTS.

S. U. DISTRICT COURT.—Before Judge SHIFFMAN.—James Thompson, et al., agt. Eberhard Feuer-Eberhard Feuer, et al.—The Commonwealth brought suit in their name and the Court is to decide it.

THE S. U. DISTRICT COURT OF COMMON PLEAS.—Trial Lawyer, et al., agt. Samuel D. Pettingill.—Motion denied, with \$10 costs.

James Meyer agt. The United States Telegraph Company.—Motion granted and cause referred to a referee to hear, &c.

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SCOTT.—By Justice D. C. Holman agt. Scott, 21, Louis L. et al. agt. Estate, 22, Wm. C. Morrison agt. Morrison.

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